



Postsecondary Education NEWS FROM FRANKFORT

News Update from the Council on Postsecondary Education



February 16, 2006
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Senate considers mandatory ACT for high school juniors

The Senate passed a bill yesterday that will require all high school juniors to take the ACT. The Council supports Senate Bill 130 because it gives all students, even those who might not aspire to college, a chance to see where they stand in terms of their college preparation levels and to make better use of their senior years to improve skills. The Council's vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Jim Applegate, testified at a Senate Education Committee meeting last week on behalf of the bill. The bill now moves to the House for consideration. For more information about Senate Bill 130, [view the February 10 Lexington Herald-Leader article *Panel OKs mandatory ACTs for juniors*](#).

Senate A&R committee holds postsecondary budget hearings

Council president Tom Layzell and several university presidents testified before the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee about postsecondary education budget priorities as budget hearings moved to the Senate last week. To view a full copy of Dr. Layzell's presentation, [visit the Council Web site](#).

Annual accountability report now available

The Council on Postsecondary Education will submit its 2004-05 Accountability Report to the Governor and the General Assembly this week. The structure of the 2004 - 05 report was altered this year to mirror the revised postsecondary public agenda approved by the Council late in 2005. The new structure is more focused and provides year-to-year comparative and historical progress on key indicators of reform that reflect state needs, as defined by the five questions of the Public Agenda and House Bill 1. To view a copy of the complete report, [visit the Council Web site](#).

Over \$1.1 million awarded to improve teacher quality

The Council awarded over \$1.1 million this month to support eight projects at postsecondary institutions aimed at improving teacher quality. The Improving Educator Quality state grant program awards grants to partnerships that deliver research-based professional development programs to K-12 teachers. Grant partnerships include a postsecondary institution's school of arts and sciences and its teacher preparation program, as well as a high-need local school district. The program enables states to fund training for teachers and administrators in a core academic subject, with priority given to the areas of mathematics and science, reading, instructional leadership, and foreign language. For a complete list of award recipients, [visit the Council Web site](#).

Enrollments and degree completions reach record highs

Enrollment at Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions reached a record high 203,741 students in fall 2005. While graduate enrollment saw a slight decline of 2.8 percent, undergraduate enrollment increased by 2.1 percent, leading to an overall increase of 1.5 percent. KCTCS had the largest enrollment growth with a 3.6 percent increase. Degree completions also reached a record high with 37,372 degrees and certificates awarded by Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions in 2004-05. UofL saw the largest one-year percentage change in bachelor's degrees of 13.7 percent. Visit the Council Web site to view ten-year trend data on [enrollment](#) or [degree completions](#).

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To receive News From Frankfort e-mail updates, contact Kimberly Drummond at Kimberly.Drummond@ky.gov

